

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 46

By Casada

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 15th annual “Two-Day Walk on the Natchez Trace.”

WHEREAS, reductions in school physical education programs and a lack of physical activity at home, coupled with an ever increasing availability of unhealthy foods, are all factors contributing to an epidemic of childhood obesity across Tennessee and America; and

WHEREAS, overweight children are at risk of becoming overweight adults and developing type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol, heart disease, cancer, and other health problems; and

WHEREAS, the Franklin Special School District (FSSD) has demonstrated a commitment to student health and fitness, with the aim of halting, if not reversing, the obesity trend among students in its community; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, FSSD officials began an innovative walking program in all of the district’s schools and brought in Rob Sweetgall, a nationally-recognized fitness expert who has walked the nation seven times, to help train the physical educators and administrators throughout the district and to help map out walking tracks for each school; and

WHEREAS, in a culminating activity for the new walking program, fourth-grade students at Moore Elementary School trained for eight weeks to complete a 28-mile, “Two-Day Walk on the Natchez Trace;” they were accompanied on the second day of the walk by Mr. Sweetgall; and

WHEREAS, that first walk was such a big success that the Moore Elementary School staff has faithfully continued it every year; and

WHEREAS, the march has become a rite of passage for the school’s fourth grade students and a much anticipated community event; and

WHEREAS, to celebrate the 15th annual “Two-Day Walk on the Natchez Trace,” on March 7, 2007, Moore Elementary School officials have invited Mr. Sweetgall back for a marathon day of festivities; and

WHEREAS, encouraging physical activity and a healthy lifestyle, FSSD’s walking program has greatly impacted the community and drawn greater attention to the importance of developing a child’s mind and body; and

WHEREAS, Moore Elementary School is a leader in the development of the “whole child” approach to education and has gained statewide and national recognition for its education and health programs; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for the children under their tutelage; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the administration, faculty, staff, and students of Moore Elementary School on the 15th anniversary of the “Two-Day Walk on the Natchez Trace” and commend them for working diligently to enlighten their peers and the community on the importance of overall health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.